

RESOLUTIONS

OF

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF CONNECTICUT,

*In favor of the repeal of the "Act to appropriate the proceeds of the sales of the public lands, and to grant pre-emption rights."*

JULY 25, 1842.

Read, and ordered to be printed.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT.

RESOLUTIONS IN RELATION TO THE PUBLIC LANDS.

Whereas the Congress of the United States has passed an act, entitled, "An act to appropriate the sales of the public lands, and to grant pre-emption rights," the object of which is to distribute among the several States and Territories, and to the District of Columbia, the avails of the public lands: And whereas the Federal Government is one of limited powers, without authority to distribute money to the States; and whereas Congress, while ordering the avails of the public lands, which have heretofore gone into the national treasury as a common fund, has simultaneously commenced a permanent national funded debt: And whereas, in directing the money derived from the sales of the public lands to other purposes than the support of the Government, and legitimate national expenditures, is unwarranted by the Constitution; and Congress, in bestowing the common funds of the nation in bounties upon the States, is thereby impairing the independence of the latter, by causing an humiliating dependance on the central Government, and destroying the original relation that each bear to the other: Therefore,

*Resolved*, That this General Assembly, and the people of the State of Connecticut, disapprove of the act of Congress, entitled, "An act to appropriate the sales of the public lands, and to grant pre-emption rights," because the same is without authority from the Constitution, and is of injurious tendency.

*Resolved*, That the Federal Government possesses no authority to distribute money from the national treasury to the States, and that in ordering such distribution Congress transcends its powers.

*Resolved*, That it is not only unconstitutional, but it would be unwise, to make the States of this Union dependant upon the Federal Government, or to clothe the latter with the power of dispensing pecuniary bounties to the States; thereby elevating the central Government, which is the creature of the States, above the States which created it.

*Resolved*, That a frugal Government, which is economical in its expenditures, and which shall abstain from all bounties, is best adapted to a repub-

lican people; and this General Assembly, speaking in behalf of the people of Connecticut, protest against any system of dividing up the public treasure, or any measure that is calculated to involve the country in debt.

*Resolved*, That the Senators of this State in the Congress of the United States be instructed, and our Representatives requested, to use their best exertions to procure an immediate and unconditional repeal of the "Act to appropriate the sales of the public lands, and to grant pre-emption rights."

*Resolved*, That his excellency the Governor be requested to transmit copies of this preamble, and these resolutions, to the President of the United States, and to the Governors of the several States, requesting them to lay the same before their respective Legislatures; and also to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

IN SENATE, 1842—passed.

E. S. ABERNETHY, *Clerk*.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 1842—Passed.

R. S. HINMAN, *Clerk*.

Approved, June 9, 1842.

C. F. CLEVELAND.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

*Hartford, July 9, 1842.*

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of record.

N. A. PHELPS,

*Secretary of State.*